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Office of Legislative Liaison Routing Slip

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U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

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WAR CRIMALS

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

Honorable William J. Casey
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

As you know, Attorney General William French Smith on February 6, 1985, ordered the Office of Special Investigations, Criminal Division, to conduct a thorough and extensive investigation regarding the fugitive Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele. By letter dated February 19, 1985, I requested certain assistance from the Central Intelligence Agency, regarding that investigation. Your Department's continued aid is greatly appreciated.

The Department of Justice believes that the disclosure of any information directly or indirectly involving Josef Mengele would substantially interfere with the ability of the Criminal Division to conduct an effective investigation. In our view, the release of any information concerning Mengele from any time period, including information dating to the period of World War II, would interfere with and potentially impede the investigation. Accordingly, I must ask the Central Intelligence Agency not to disclose publicly any information or material you might gather relating to the Justice Department's investigation. I would also appreciate it if you would communicate our position to all appropriate individuals within the Central Intelligence Agency. Your Department is of course authorized to forward a copy of this letter to anyone requesting information from your Department concerning Mengele, by way of a request under the Freedom of Information Act or by other means. Members of your Department are encouraged to coordinate with the Office of Special Investigations concerning any litigation which may develop regarding the release of information on Mengele.

Your continued cooperation and assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Stephen S. Trott
Assistant Attorney General

Criminal Division